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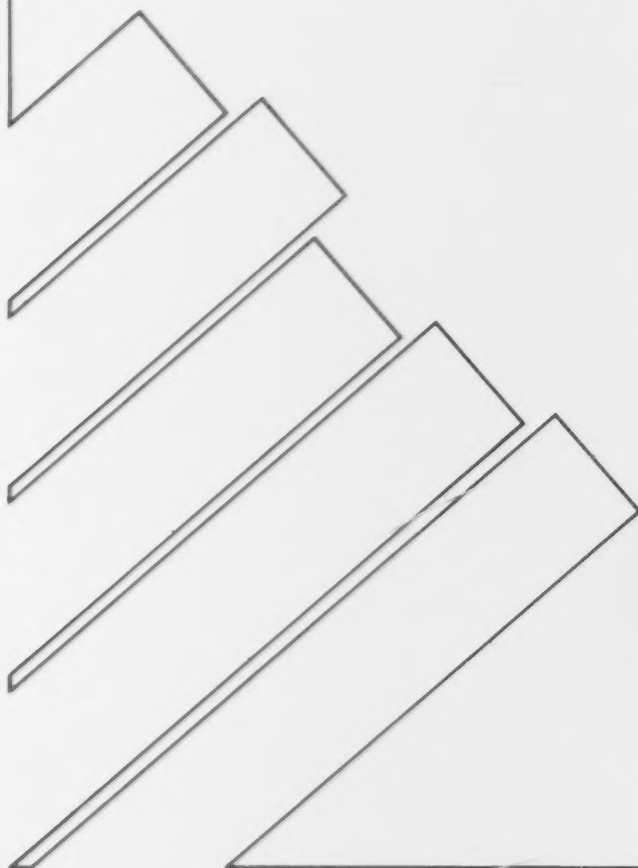
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Physician Characteristics and Distribution in the U.S.

1982 Edition



**SURVEY & DATA RESOURCES
American Medical Association**

Mary Ann Eiler, Ph.D.
Department of
Data Release Services

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Foreword

This publication provides descriptive data on U.S. physicians as of December 31, 1981. Included are aggregations for a wide spectrum of individual and professional characteristics of physicians. All data in this volume are derived from primary sources and represent the collection, dissemination, and validation efforts of the various departments of the AMA Division of Survey and Data Resources. As a major source of data related to the geographic and specialty distribution of physicians, *Physician Characteristics and Distribution* addresses a wide audience. Hospitals, medical schools, societies, associations, government agencies, as well as industrial and marketing organizations, consulting firms, and others have found earlier editions of the monograph to be useful and significant compendiums for researching a variety of health related issues and for the organization and delivery of health services.

Norbert W. Budde, Ph.D., Director
Division of Survey and Data Resources

In selecting tabulations for this edition, the author, where feasible to do so, attempted to address the increased and changing needs for information in the medical community, to respond to the comments of users as given in the survey included in the 1981 edition, and to meet the needs of researchers as demonstrated by individual data requests received by the Department of Data Release Services. The division of the monograph into three sections—*Trends, Characteristics, and Distribution*—advances this orientation. The INTRODUCTION that follows describes these three areas and the format of the edition.

The Division of Survey and Data Resources trusts that the 1982 edition of *Physician Characteristics and Distribution* will continue an almost 20 year publication tradition as a unique and comprehensive resource for physician manpower data.

Introduction

Physician Characteristics and Distribution, 1982 Edition is the latest in a series begun in 1963 as the *Distribution of Physicians*. It contains historical and current data on the U.S. physician population that provide a basis for comparison essential for health services research, program planning, and policy development. All summary and detail data on physicians in this edition have been compiled as of December 31, 1981 from the AMA Physician Masterfile maintained by the AMA Division of Survey and Data Resources. An historical and developmental overview of the AMA Physician Masterfile is provided as a preface to the general discussion. Included in this overview is a description of the structure of the File as well as data collection and management procedures.

Data in this publication, which includes only Doctors of Medicine (M.D.'s), are presented in three separate sections on the TRENDS, CHARACTERISTICS, and DISTRIBUTION of physicians.

The TREND SECTION contains data for selected years 1963-1981 and includes cross-tabulations of physician characteristics by major professional activity, specialty, age and sex, as well as location in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Also shown are statistics on foreign medical graduates (FMGs), physician-population ratios on non-federal physicians, and a rank of these ratios by state.

The CHARACTERISTICS SECTION presents key professional and individual characteristics of the physician population. Cross-tabulations include physicians by age, sex, major professional activity, and specialty. Also presented are the 82 specialties designated by the AMA (Table B-5). The section provides separate tabulations for women physicians and foreign medical graduates, for physicians by country, school, and year of graduation, as well as data on specialty and board certification status.

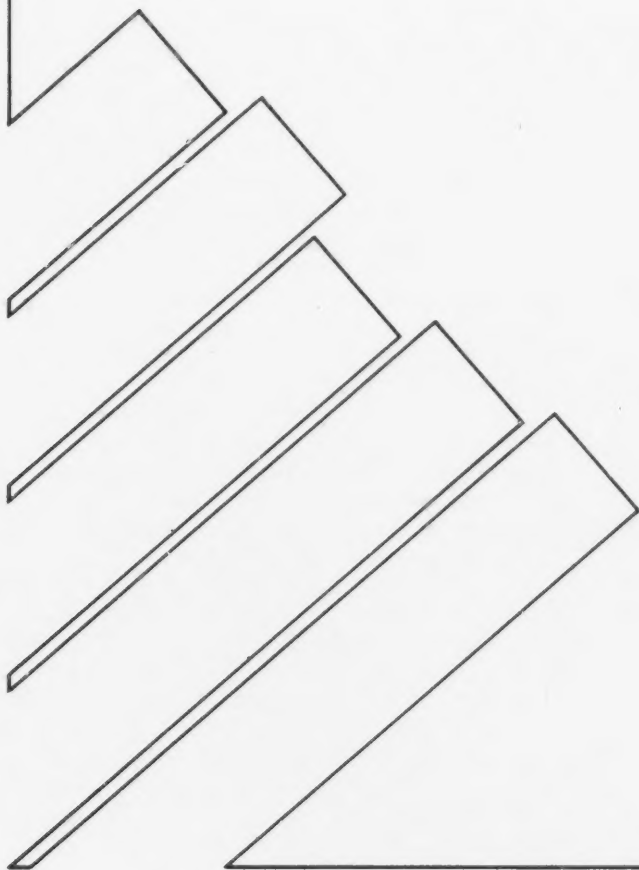
The focus of the DISTRIBUTION SECTION is the geographical location of physicians. The section is comprised of two major parts: (1) state summary data that include statistics on physicians by age and sex and foreign medical graduates (Tables C-1 through C-9), and (2) specialty and activity data for the nation as well as for states, census regions and divisions, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs), and counties (Tables 1-14).

A series of appendices are provided to facilitate easy access to information on geographical locations and categories, including lists of states, divisions, regions, demographic county classifications, and the county composition for SMSAs. Included are lists of specialties, major professional activity descriptions, and information on the American Specialty Boards. A sample of the Physicians' Professional Activities (PPA) questionnaire, which is sent to physicians in order to update the AMA Physician Masterfile, is also included.

Although this publication was designed to address and meet many of the anticipated data requirements concerning the physician population, various users may have specific requests for information from the AMA Physician Masterfile. Such inquiries regarding data contained in this publication or earlier publications are to be directed to the AMA Division of Library and Archival Services. Other inquiries concerning AMA Physician Masterfile data not contained in this publication are to be directed to the AMA Department of Data Release Services.

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AMA Physician Masterfile



AMA Physician Masterfile

The AMA has continued to develop a unique and comprehensive data base of physician and medical student information since the establishment of the Masterfile in 1906. Although initially the Masterfile was primarily used by the Association as a record keeping device for membership and mailing purposes, today the File is widely considered to be the most complete and extensive source of physician-related information in the U.S. The File contains current and historical data on all physicians, including members and non-members of the Association and graduates of foreign medical schools who are in the U.S. and meet education standards for primary recognition as physicians. FMGs residing in the U.S. are incorporated into the Masterfile generally upon entry into an LCGME (Liaison Committee on Graduate Medical Education) accredited program of graduate medical training. Thus, the total U.S. physician population is currently included on the AMA Physician Masterfile.

A file is started on each individual upon entry into medical school or, in the case of foreign or Canadian medical graduates, upon entry into the U.S. A physician's record includes medical school and year of graduation, sex, and birthdate. As a physician's training and career develop, additional information is added to the File, such as internship and residency training, state licensure data, board certification and National Board data, and other. This information, which comprises the historical portion of the Masterfile, facilitates studies of trends in geographic mobility and medical education.

In addition, the current professional activities portion of each physician's record identifies geographical location and current address, type of practice (group, solo, partnership), specialties (primary, secondary, tertiary), membership in specialty societies, present employment (medical schools, hospitals, government, and other), and professorial appointment. These data are particularly useful in manpower research and planning. By definition, this current portion of the File is subject to constant change and must be updated continually through intensive monitoring and data collection activities. Over time, the objectives, collection techniques, and need assessments undergo regular review and change. This review and analysis of the data base is conducted to:

- determine current and future information requirements for long range planning
- develop new validation techniques to improve the File's accuracy and completeness
- analyze methods for Masterfile data collection, maintenance, and dissemination

A major source of data collection is the *Record of Physicians' Professional Activities* (PPA), a mail questionnaire survey which has been sent every four years since 1969 to all physicians residing in the United States as well as to U.S. physicians residing temporarily overseas. The most recent PPA census was completed in January 1982 with a response rate of approximately 90 percent. The questionnaire is shown in Appendix C.

Each physician is asked to indicate the number of hours worked per typical week within the following categories:

Professional Activities—hours spent in direct Patient Care or Non-Patient Care activities (e.g., Medical Teaching, Administration, Medical Research, Other)

Specialization—hours spent in primary, secondary, tertiary specialties

Present Employment—hours spent by type of employer (e.g., solo practice, partnership, group, non-group arrangement, medical school, non-governmental hospital, governmental hospital)

All returned questionnaires are passed through a series of clerical and computer-editing procedures which assign major professional activity classifications to each physician's record on the basis of hourly information provided.

Between census years, a computerized weekly update system keeps the Masterfile current. Each physician's record is updated to reflect the most recent change in address, specialty, or professional activity. Sources of information indicating changes include AMA mailings or publications, addressing company mailings, physician correspondence, hospitals, government agencies, medical societies, specialty boards, or licensing agencies. Depending upon the source of information and the type of change, a questionnaire may be sent to the physician to verify the change.

While the data collected from the *Record of Physicians' Professional Activities* questionnaire represents a major source of information to the Masterfile, data are also obtained through inputs from other organizations and institutions. Primary sources and the data they provide include:

- MEDICAL SCHOOLS—name, address, birthdate, birthplace, school and year of graduation
- HOSPITALS—physicians in graduate medical training including foreign medical graduates (FMGs) entering U.S. training
- MEDICAL SOCIETIES—address and membership information

- NATIONAL BOARDS—medical students and physicians who have passed all parts of the National Board Examination
- STATE LICENSING AGENCIES—licensure status of physicians
- EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES (ECFMG)—FMGs who have been certified by the ECFMG
- SURGEONS GENERAL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT—physicians certified by American Specialty Boards
- PHYSICIANS—type of practice, present employment, specialty and preferred professional mailing address

The AMA Physician Masterfile utilizes data from primary sources only. Information is not entered on

the Masterfile unless submitted or verified by a primary source.

While many sources provide data for inclusion on the Masterfile, data are also often extracted from the Masterfile for use by these agencies. In addition, the File is used by various state and county societies, specialty societies, the pharmaceutical industry, publishers, and nine addressing companies.

AMA data are available for research and other special purposes. Safeguards to protect the confidentiality of these data and the AMA's proprietary rights have been mandated by the AMA's Board of Trustees. Inquiries concerning the release of data should be directed to the Department of Data Release Services, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.